

B1  
cont.

control mappings corresponding to a plurality of application program genres, the control mappings indicating actions to be performed in application programs of particular genres in response to respective ones of the human-actuated controls, wherein the control mappings identify controls by their HID string indexes, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by the application programs.

B2

3. (Amended) A computer peripheral comprising:

a plurality of human-actuated controls;

non-volatile memory containing control mappings corresponding to a plurality of application program genres, the control mappings indicating actions to be performed in application programs of particular genres in response to respective ones of the human-actuated controls, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by the application programs.

B3

14. (Amended) A method comprising:

defining a plurality of application program genres, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by application programs classifiable in the genre;

running an application program that has been classified as a particular application program genre, wherein the application program is responsive to a plurality of human-actuated controls on a control device;

querying the control device to obtain a genre descriptor, the genre descriptor indicating actions to be performed by an application program of said particular application program genre in response to respective ones of the human-actuated controls.

B4

23. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing system services utilized by an application program to interact with a control device having a plurality of human-actuated controls, wherein the system services perform acts comprising:

receiving a request from an application program for a genre description corresponding to one of a plurality of application program genres, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by application programs classifiable in the genre;

querying the control device to obtain a genre descriptor, the genre descriptor indicating actions to be performed by an application program of said one of a plurality of application program genres in response to respective ones of the human-actuated controls;

returning the obtained genre descriptor to the requesting application program.

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32. (Amended) A data transmission medium carrying a data structure comprising:

a header section indicating the number of human-actuated controls on a computer peripheral and the number of application program genres for which control mappings exist in the data structure;

a control section indicating HID string indexes for the respective controls on the computer peripheral;

a genre section indicating control mappings for the respective application program genres, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by application programs classifiable in the genre.

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36. (Amended) A method of using an input device connected to a computing device with software executable on said computing device, said method comprising the acts of:

running an application program which is responsive to input, said application program being classified as a particular one of a plurality of application program genres, each of said genres comprising a set of semantics and not including commands interpretable by application programs classifiable in the genre;